THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

April 21, 1982

AM
10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: May 18, 1982
July 13, 1982

B. Approval of March 9, 1982 minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts.

C. Selection of the Commission of Fine Arts for display of banner celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the American Institute of Architects.

D. D. C. Statehood Constitutional Convention, Committee on Local Government, Intergovernmental Relations and Transition hearing April 13, 1982, Statement by Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts.

E. Installation of Satellite Antennas within the Shipstead-Luce and Georgetown Areas, staff discussion.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration, National Capital Region

1. CFA 21/APR/82-1, Federal Triangle Master Plan, Great Plaza Area, 13th, 14th and E Streets, and Constitution Avenue, N. W., preliminary massing study.

A. General Services Administration, National Capital Region (continued)

2. CFA 21/APR/82-2, Old Post Office, 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., interior and exterior renovation and site plan for accommodation of commercial and restaurant use.

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

CFA 21/APR/82-3, New office building, Indiana Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets, N. W., Square 458, preliminary review.

C. Department of Agriculture

CFA 21/APR/82-4, Landscape plan for area surrounding Department of Agriculture Building, the Mall, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.

D. District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 82-57, 1220 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., new retail and office building for W. Bell & Co.

b. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 82-60, 2117 E Street, N. W., preliminary plans for renovation of existing apartment building.

b. Appendix II.

E. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

CFA 21/APR/82-5, Proposed design for a Fifty Cent piece commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

III. INSPECTIONS

Freer Gallery, inspection of recent acquisitions.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNERS	PROJECT
O.G. 82-40 HPA. 82-139	3222 M Street, N.W. Western Development	Entrance canvas canopy.

ACTION: Do not issue permit for the proposed metal and canvas restaurant canopy. The design would be inappropriate to the existing conditions and unsightly since the metal support ribs and canvas underside would be in view from the canal and the foot of the public steps. The CFA staff is available to discuss the requirements of the Historic District.

O.G. 82-45 HPA. 82-158	1529 26th Street, N.W. Fred Levering	Rear 2-story masonry addition to frame house.

ACTION: Issue permit for addition to frame house. Sheathing shall be wood to match existing house.

O.G. 82-48 HPA. 82-164	3401 K Street, N.W. Sigal Construction Corp.	Signs.

ACTION: Issue permit for seven reddish-brown canvas banners. The banners will be mounted no less than 9'-9" above sidewalk. Lettering will appear only on the entrance banner.

O.G. 82-50 HPA. 82-178	1035 31st Street, N.W. Yes, Inc.	Vestibule/Entry.

ACTION: Issue permit for proposed addition, terrace and stoop. Recommend the use of a decorative grille, typical of a garden wall, for opening at false front screening the terrace, instead of the proposed unglazed window with wood muntin bars. There is no objection to the metal, oval sign as indicated in the drawing dated March 19th.

O.G. 82-51 HPA. 82-197	3401 M Street, N.W. Mr. Smith's Restaurant	Install 24' X 3'6" awning across front of bldg. (not over public space).

ACTION: There is insufficent information on which to base an action. Accurate drawings are required indicating exact dimensions and existing conditions, how the canopy will be attached and where. The Board recommends against the sign and logo indicated on the sketch as it would far exceed the legal size of signs in the Historic District. It is recommended that signs be limited to the valance. The staff is available to discuss the project, but has been unable to contact the applicant. (contact Mr. Carson or Mr. Myer at 566-1066).

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNERS	PROJECT
O.G. 82-52 HPA. 82-198	1221 36th Street, N.W. Georgetown University	Renovation of classroom bldg. to student residence.

ACTION: Issue permit for renovation of classroom building for student housing. Recommend careful study and detailing of concrete entrance ramp adjacent to sidewalk. Request submittal of paving brick and concrete samples for approval of Commission of Fine Arts.

O.G. 82-53 HPA. 82-204	3107-3109 M Street, N.W. 3109 M Street Associates	Repair/alterations of front facade.

ACTION: Preliminary design is approved. Final action will be subject to review of working drawings, design details and material selection. Acceptance of this particular arcade proposal and basement areaway is considered an exception for this site only.

O.G. 82-56 HPA. 82-216	3622-24-26 Prospect Street, N.W. William G. McGowan	Renovations and additions to three existing residences.

ACTION: Issue permit for alterations and additions to existing residences at 3622,3624 and 3626 Prospect Street, N.W. Review of working drawings received and dated 30 March 1982 indicates compliance with preliminary designs approved 13 October 1981.

O.G. 82-54 HPA. 82-208	1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. Colonial Parking Inc.	Parking Signs

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Request resubmission of designs for two 3'x4' wall signs mounted behind the building line on the north and south walls within the parking entrance area. An exception for a projecting sign on axis with the river vista is not recommended.

O.G. 82-55 HPA. 82-210	3229 M Street, N.W. John Dashtara	Single letters (channelled) brass materials; back shadow lighted sign.

Issue permit for a back-lighted brass sign having pin-mounted lettering, in one style only, as shown on originally approved plans, O.G. 82-33: see revised drawings.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNERS	PROJECT
O.G. 82-60 HPA. 82-231	1060 Thomas Jefferson St., N.W. Elliot Moulten	Remove exterior trim and restore to original design similar to 1059 Thomas Jefferson St., N.W.

ACTION: Issue permit for the replacement of trim to exactly match that of adjacent house in order to restore the original appearance.

O.G. 82-61 HPA. 82-232	1417 33rd Street, N.W. David Schwartz	One story frame addition.

ACTION: Issue permit for a one story addition to the rear of the house. The new siding shall match existing work.

O.G. 82-62 HPA. 82-236	3007 P Street, N.W. Mary Bogounoff Darr	Make addition to kitchen in rear of house; make addition to existing garage, raze part of existing garage.

ACTION: Issue permit for the removal of a portion of the garage, and for an addition to the house and garage to conform to zoning requirement.

O.G. 82-63 HPA. 82-239	2515 P Street, N.W. The Redfield Corp.	Alterations and repairs to existing apartment building.

ACTION: Preliminary designs for renovation are approved subject to the submission and approval of working drawings, design details and material samples.

O.G. 82-40 HPA. 82-139	3222 M Street, N.W. Western Development	Revised canopy.

ACTION: Issue permit for the arched canopy design (marked A) as indicated on the drawings dated 12 April, 1982. The fabric, interior and frame shall be dark green.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNERS	PROJECTS
S.L. 82-19-38 S.L. 82-52 HPA. 82-119 - 82-138 & 82-200	100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Arthur E. Morrissette	Raze to clear site for new construction.

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for razing of buildings scheduled under HPA numbers 82-119 through 82-138 inclusive, and partial demolition scheduled under HPA 82-200. This administrative action is consistent with the design for redevelopment of square 348, which was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts at its May 1980 meeting.

S.L. 82-53 HPA. 82-201	1201 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. SOM (Mirimar, Inc.)	Install one sign.

ACTION: Issue permit for the proposed sign with individual pin-mounted lettering. The new sign will match color of other signs for the building.

S.L. 82-55 HPA. 82-207	501 G Street, N.W. Cohen Investment Co.	Restoration and renovation of existing commercial structure.

ACTION: Issue permit for the renovation and restoration of the existing commercial structure at 501 G Street, N.W., in accordance with the drawings filed and dated 7 April 1982. Careful attention is recommended to the application of new and restoration materials so as to match the existing mortar joints and quality of the original construction. It is understood that any duplication work will be copied exactly from the original materials and detailing.

S.L. 82-56 HPA. 82-209	200 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Gulf Oil Co.	New storage room addition to rear of existing service station.

ACTION: Conceptual design is approved for a one story storage facility as shown on the drawings submitted and dated 12 April 1982. The addition to the rear of the existing building will have little visibility from public space.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNERS	PROJECTS
S.L. 82-57 HPA. 82-215	117 2nd Street, N.E. Mike Gravel	Addition of top floor to rear of existing building.

ACTION: Issue permit for top floor addition to rear of existing structure and metal fire escape as shown on drawings dated 31 March 1982.

S.L. 82-58 HPA. 82-227	1431 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Willard Associates	Temporary parking facility.

ACTION: Issue permit for a temporary surface parking lot to be located at 1431 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. It is understood that the proposed facility will operate for no more than one year. Signs, which will conform to the 25 foot maximum, shall be submitted by the applicant for approval. Any proposed fencing will also require the approval of the Commission.

S.L. 82-59	730 & 732 17th Street, N.W. Nick Berbakos	Replacement signage

ACTION: Do not issue permit for an internally illuminated vertical sign proposed for 730 17th Street, N.W. The two-faced, 48 square foot sign does not conform to District sign regulations and is detrimental to the appearance of the area. (The applicant should take note that the District Government has ordered the removal of an illegal vertical sign installed by McDonald's adjacent to the Black Steer. Attached is a copy of the letter sent to McDonald's manager, Carl Lavin, ordering that removal.) The Commission has no objection to the proposed replacement of the "Cocktail Lounge" sign at 732 17th Street, N.W., but recommends against any internal illumination for such secondary sign. It is further recommended that any replacement or new signs will have black lettering on a cream or beige background.

S.L. 82-61 HPA. 82-246	1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Oliver T. Carr	Temporary construction fence for the Willard.

ACTION: Issue permit for temporary construction fence in accordance with drawings submitted and dated 15 April 1982.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 82-62 HPA. 82-250	3100 Macomb Street, N.W. Washington International School	Skylight addition.

ACTION: Issue permit for skylight in accordance with drawing submitted and dated 15 April 1982.

S.L. 82-45	2700 Quebec Street, N.W. E. Fontaine Broun	Install new elevator as per plans.

ACTION: Do not issue permit for new elevator and tower as per plan. While there is no objection to an elevator, the Commission recommends against the mechanical tower since the proposed 16'-0" height would have an adverse effect on the appearance of the existing residence and the surrounding neighborhood and park. It is recommended that any such projection be no higher than 9'-0" from the finished surface of the roof directly behind the existing balustrade.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

21 April 1982

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members Present:	Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman Hon. John S. Chase Hon. Sondra G. Myers Hon. Walter A. Netsch Hon. Alan Novak Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Staff Present:	Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson Mrs. Sue Kohler
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	Mr. George Evans

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings, approved as: 18 May 1982
13 July 1982

B. Minutes of meeting of 9 March 1982, approved.

C. Selection of the Commission of Fine Arts for display of banner celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the American Institute of Architects. The Secretary noted the large banner placed on the exterior of the Commission's building in honor of the A.I.A.'s 125th anniversary. He said the building had been selected as one of several in the city to display a banner because of the major role played by the Institute in the establishment of the Commission of Fine Arts.

At this time the Secretary announced that the Pritzker Prize for 1982 would be awarded to Kevin Roche, former member of the Commission, and that the Chairman would make the presentation in Chicago in May. The members all expressed their pleasure that Mr. Roche had been so honored.

D. D. C. Statehood Constitutional Convention, Committee on Local Government, Intergovernmental Relations and Transition hearing, 13 April 1982; statement by Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts. The Secretary reviewed his testimony, which the members had read, and said he would write a letter confirming it as the Commission's official position if the members approved. Unanimous approval was given. Exhibit A - Testimony (letter determined to be unnecessary)

E. Installation of satellite antennas within the Shipstead-Luce and Georgetown areas, staff discussion. The Secretary commented on the increasing number of these antennas which, when mounted on grade or on a roof 20' or more high require a permit to erect. He said there are no guidelines as to where they can be mounted, and their appearance is often damaging to residential neighborhoods, especially when mounted on roofs. Mr. Netsch said that because of wind problems, installation at ground level is usually recommended, which would at least help the visibility problem. Both the Chairman and Mr. Netsch thought this question would have to be resolved on a case-by-case basis, but stressed that the goal should be minimum intrusion into public space. It was suggested that manufacturers of such equipment might be consulted to obtain more information on installation recommendations.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration, National Capital Region

1. CFA 21/APR/82-1, Federal Triangle Master Plan, Great Plaza Area; 13th, 14th and E Streets, and Constitution Avenue, N. W., preliminary massing study. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the Commission's efforts to get the Triangle completed and remove the parking from the Great Plaza, from the time it was built until the most recent effort in 1978. He said the result of this last effort had been a competition and the preparation of a master plan, part of which would be presented at this meeting. He noted a major feature of the plan--construction of a large building in the Great Plaza providing seven floors of Federal office space and three floors of public use space.

David Dibner, Assistant Commissioner for Design and Construction at GSA, was then introduced. He reviewed the past history of the Triangle area as a government enclave, beginning with the first suggestion in 1896 that it be used as such, and running through the completion of the Old Post Office in 1899, the McMillan Commission suggestions in 1901,

erection of the District Building in 1908, and the major development during the late 1920's and early 1930's. He noted the intention during the latter years to remove the Old Post Office and District Building, which had resulted in leaving the ends of the IRS and Post Office Department buildings unfinished. He reviewed the 1978 competition, which had concentrated on the finishing of these buildings and the development of the Post Office hemicycle.

Mr. Dibner then outlined the goals of the master plan as a whole: (1) to provide more Federally-owned government office space and eliminate the need for leasing; (2) to complete the Triangle; and (3) to penetrate the "Chinese Wall" aspect of the Triangle along Pennsylvania Avenue and from the Mall side, along Constitution Avenue, thus opening the Triangle to public use. To do this, a major entrance from Pennsylvania Avenue into the Triangle in the area east of the District Building would be provided, and interior courtyards throughout the Triangle would be opened up and landscaped, forming a "trail" throughout the complex. The new Great Plaza building would be split into two sections along 14th Street by a glazed arcade on axis with the Straus fountain and the western Post Office Department (now called the Federal Building) hemicycle. The arcade would house exhibits from the National Archives to draw people in from 14th Street.

Mr. Dibner said that once the necessary approvals and appropriations have been obtained, a competition would be held for the design of the main buildings; the one in the Great Plaza and an adjoining one fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue between the District and Federal buildings.

Architect Jerry Karn from the office of Harry Weese and Associates discussed the design solutions to the problems and goals outlined by Mr. Dibner. He began with the Great Plaza, noting the sharp distinction here between the great formal, open space envisioned by planner Edward H. Bennett, and the parking lot which has existed since shortly after the Triangle was built. He said his firm had come to the conclusion that a formal park was no longer the best solution, that there were ample open space areas of varying types in close proximity to the Triangle, including the Mall, the Ellipse, Pershing Park and Western Plaza. He said the development of small, landscaped areas within the Triangle, particularly within existing courtyards, was what was needed to serve the Federal employees and the public.

Mr. Karn said his firm had developed six schemes for the Great Plaza ranging from minimum to maximum office building development; the one selected was close to maximum use of the space. He said it stressed the east-west axis from the Ellipse, through the Commerce Building, Great Plaza, and finally the west hemicycle of the Federal Building; he added, however, that the north-south street axis had also been considered in the plan and massing studies. He pointed out the importance of relating the great, columned facade of the Commerce Building with the curved west

facade of the Federal Building and providing a suitable setting for the Straus fountain on 14th Street; this would be the function of the glazed arcade. Open spaces in the Great Plaza would include the Straus fountain area, a plaza in front of the Departmental Auditorium, and a larger one to the east, bounded by the curved facade of the Federal Building and one of a similar shape on the new building. The latter area would also include a Metro entrance. The new building would not touch the historic buildings at any point; landscaped walks would separate them and provide places for workers to eat lunch and relax. Mr. Karn also pointed out the superb views of the pediments and sculptural details on the old buildings that would be opened up by the many glazed areas in the new building.

An adjacent connecting new building would have frontage on Pennsylvania Avenue, occupying the space between the District Building and 13th Street. It was shown set back from the avenue with a curved front. Mr. Karn said it was felt that this configuration and siting would break the wall effect of the Triangle and draw people back into the Great Plaza area, as well as opening up a view of the facade of the Federal Building and providing a setting for the District Building. Two underground levels under this and the 14th Street building would provide parking and service for the area, with entrances and exits for parking being on both 13th and 14th streets.

Mr. Netsch asked some questions about the master plan generally and what it included; specifically, had such things as traffic flow and congestion from parking exits been considered, and would there be the kind of quality control and fine detailing needed to make a project like this successful? Mr. Karn said there had been extensive traffic studies of all streets involved. He said 14th Street would continue to be a major artery, 12th Street would be narrowed (2 south-bound lanes removed), and 10th Street would again be a two way street with bus layover functions removed and sidewalks widened. He added that landscaping along the streets had also been considered, and street trees would on the whole follow the original design for the Triangle area and would be coordinated with landscaping plans for Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues.

The Chairman noted at this point that the Commission was considering only a preliminary massing study and no specific designs were being submitted.

Mr. Novak said he was bothered by the curved facade of the building on Pennsylvania Avenue, that it did not seem to relate to the other Triangle buildings. The Chairman said he also had difficulties with this form, and he asked Mr. Karn if there was a specific program for the building. Mr. Karn replied that the three lower floors would be devoted

to public use with seven floors of offices above; he said there was a possibility for performing arts use of some of the public area. The Chairman said it was his feeling that setting the building back destroyed the sense of the street, and that piercing an apparent barrier--perhaps with arches as was done throughout the Triangle--would be a more effective way of drawing people in than the method chosen.

Mr. Netsch asked if there were any priorities in the construction program. GSA representative Jack Finberg answered that the design competition would be held in October 1982, and it was expected that construction would be authorized in 1985.

The Chairman observed that the basic change shown in the plan was filling in the Great Plaza with a building. He said he thought this was acceptable for the reasons given by Mr. Karn, and he liked the plan to develop and landscape the smaller open spaces throughout the Triangle, especially the repetition of the form of the west facade of the Federal Building to make a circular park area at the east end of the Great Plaza. The other members agreed, and the preliminary massing study for this part of the Triangle was unanimously approved.

Exhibit B

2. CFA 21/APR/82-2, Old Post Office, 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.; interior and exterior renovation and site plan for accommodation of commercial and restaurant use. The Secretary introduced Jerry Shiplett from GSA who explained that there had been a competition to select the developer for the commercial spaces in the building, and the winner, Evans Development Corporation, had also been asked to look at possible commercial uses for space outside the building.

Developer Charles Evans was introduced and told the members that the prime purpose of commercial usage of the Old Post Office was to create both day and nighttime activity in the Federal Triangle; and to bring people in from the Mall, through the Triangle and on up to the F Street retail area. Drawings of the exterior of the building showed a large, greenhouse type addition on the 11th Street side (12,000 square feet) which, although it did not actually touch the building was linked to it by a glass canopy. On either side of the front entrance were shown restaurants on raised terraces; these would also be primarily glass enclosures, with awnings above. On the south facade of the building was another greenhouse type entrance structure.

Mark Rector, from Benjamin Thompson Associates, architects, showed slides of similar developments and examples of the kinds of specialty shops expected to occupy the commercial space, both inside and out. On the inside, shops would be located around the edge of the large central space and there would be restaurants in the balcony area.

The members all had reservations about the exterior additions, particularly the large one on 11th Street. Because of its transparency, they were worried about the high visibility of commercial clutter and its effect on the formality of Pennsylvania Avenue. They were also concerned about the effect of attaching such a structure (visually if not actually) to such a monumental piece of architecture as the Old Post Office. Finally, they noted that if this were built, there would no longer be space left to complete the unfinished end of the IRS building, as shown in the Weese master plan. There was also some concern that the front additions could damage the building architecturally. It was also suggested that if anything were built on 11th Street, a separate, smaller pavilion would be preferable. The exterior additions, as presented, were unanimously disapproved. There were no objections to the plans for the interior spaces. Exhibit C

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

CFA 21/APR/82-3, new office building, Indiana Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets, N. W., Square 458; preliminary review. The Assistant Secretary described the location of this infill structure, on the north side of Indiana Avenue across from the large Westminster Development Corporation project recently reviewed by the Commission, and then introduced the architect, Davis Buckley. Mr. Buckley showed elevation drawings of the entire block, pointing out the small scale historic structures near 7th Street and then the two large scale recently constructed buildings eastward to 6th Street. His building would fill in the space between the two large buildings now used for parking. He noted that Indiana Avenue will be narrowed to two lanes along this block. Mr. Buckley showed both plan and elevation drawings of his building, pointing out the pedestrian access through to D Street and saying that the first two floors would be devoted to retail space with offices above. He said he had approached the exterior design with the idea that it should be background architecture, harmonizing with the buildings flanking it but avoiding the repetitious window and panel patterns. The members had no objection to this approach or Mr. Buckley's design and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit D
(The Chairman left the meeting at this point, turning it over to Mr. Stone.)

C. Department of Agriculture

CFA 21/APR/82-4, landscape plan for area surrounding Department of Agriculture Building; the Mall, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S. W. Staff member Jeffrey Carson introduced Richard Levin from the Department of Agriculture; Mr. Levin said the intention of the new landscaping was to enhance the classical architecture of the building

by making the planting more formal and by accenting the main entrance with small, colorful trees (crepe myrtle). The master plan would be implemented over a period of five years. The various types of plant material were described by the landscape architect, and Mr. Stone suggested that the street trees receive first priority so that they would be well established by the time the rest of the work was completed. Mr. Levin agreed this would be desirable and the project was unanimously approved. Exhibit E

D. District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development.

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 82-57, 1220 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., new retail and office building for W. Bell and Company. The Assistant Secretary described this small building to be erected as an infill on the site where the Quizzicum Book Store building once stood. He said the Georgetown Board had approved the design. He introduced architect Robert Glaser who showed drawings of the facade, characterized by the use of round arch openings of various sizes. Mr. Glaser said W. Bell would occupy the ground floor and part of the second with the remaining space leased for offices. There were some questions asked about the size of the signs; James Hurd from W. Bell & Company was present and said they did meet code requirements. The Assistant Secretary said that in any case, the signs would have to be reviewed separately by the Georgetown Board. Mr. Netsch questioned the shape and placement of window and door openings on the ground floor; there were no other questions or objections and the design was unanimously approved.

b. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 82-60, 2117 E Street, N. W.; preliminary plans for renovation of existing apartment building. Mr. Carson described the location of this 1954 apartment house, on the north side of E Street just west of the World Health Building. He introduced the architect, Mr. Shalom Baranes, who said his renovation would consist of a new lobby and modifications to the entrance on E Street. The old canopy and brick planting beds would be removed. The drawings for the new entrance showed a granite base with window area and claret colored aluminum wall panels above, and columns sheathed in fluted aluminum at each end. Mr. Baranes said he hoped the large scale elements would give the building a better foundation visually. There were no objections and the modifications were unanimously approved.

b. Appendix II. There was some discussion about one item on this appendix, an elevator penthouse at 2700 Quebec Street, N. W. Architect Joseph Wilkes of Wilkes, Faulkner, Jenkins and Bass explained that the owner, who expects to be confined to a wheelchair because of an accident, has requested the installation of an elevator, which would require a penthouse. Mr. Wilkes said he had been able to reduce the height from 16 to 12 feet, but the members still felt that it was a very prominent addition and might be of some concern to neighbors as well as being visible from the park. Mr. Netsch suggested that the main elevator stop at the top floor and an auxiliary elevator, of a type not requiring a penthouse, be used to go up to the roof. It was suggested that Mr. Wilkes work with the staff to find a satisfactory solution and also that he do some sight line studies to see how visible the penthouse would be from the park and neighboring properties.

The remainder of the appendix was approved.

E. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

CFA 21/APR/82-5, proposed design for fifty cent piece commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. Staff member Sue Kohler recalled that the members had informally reviewed several designs for this coin at the February meeting; she then introduced George Schafer from the Mint and Elizabeth Jones, recently appointed Sculptor-Engraver of the United States. Ms. Jones showed the members her revised designs for the coin. On the obverse was a three-quarter length equestrian protrait of George Washington; the reverse showed a perspective view of Mount Vernon with the seal of the United States below. There were no objections to the reverse, but the portrait, particularly the rendering of the horse and its size relative to the figure of Washington, caused some concern. It was suggested that Ms. Jones give this further study and bring a clay maquette to the next meeting so the three-dimensional effect could be more accurately determined. Mr. Schafer noted that the coin was a special commemorative issue and would not be circulated; in size it would be identical to the Kennedy half dollar. The design, as presented, was unanimously disapproved. Exhibit F

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

III. INSPECTIONS

Because of the late hour and previous commitments of some of the members, the inspection at the Freer Gallery was postponed until the May meeting.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

TESTIMONY OF

CHARLES H. ATHERTON

SECRETARY, COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL

RELATIONS AND TRANSITION AT THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

APRIL 13, 1982

Good Morning. My name is Charles H. Atherton, and I am Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and to comment on the Commission's role in relation to deliberation of the Statehood Constitutional Convention and the District of Columbia government.

As you know, the Commission is an independent federal agency having been initially established to advise the Congress, the President and other department heads of the federal government on the design of projects affecting the appearance of the Capital. Subsequently, the Commission's role was widened to include advice to the District of Columbia government, first through an executive order regarding civic architecture such as schools, libraries, and courthouses, and over the years public works such as bridges and highways.

In 1930, Congress enacted legislation that required the Commission to review the design of private construction abutting certain public areas like Capitol Hill, Pennsylvania Avenue, and

ROCK CREEK PARK. THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT WAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE KIND OF ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT ONE ACHIEVES THROUGH CAREFUL REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, THUS NOT ONLY PROTECTING THE PUBLIC VALUES INHERENT IN THESE AREAS, BUT ALSO TO PROTECT THE PRIVATE INVESTMENT THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE OF REASONABLE AESTHETIC STANDARDS.

IN 1950, CONGRESS ENACTED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROTECT THE GEORGETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT THROUGH DESIGN REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION.

IN ALL THREE CASES, THE COMMISSION ADVISES THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT WITH THE MAYOR RETAINING THE FINAL AUTHORITY FOR THE ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION. ALL THE LEGISLATION I HAVE REFERRED TO IS DETAILED IN OUR BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION, A FEW COPIES OF WHICH I HAVE WITH ME. IT ALSO CONTAINS A HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY AND THE ROLE WE HAVE PLAYED FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED. IN RETROSPECT, WE BELIEVE THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS WORKED WELL OVER THE YEARS, AND THAT BY AND LARGE THE PURPOSES OF THE LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVED, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ACTUAL STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT HAS EVOLVED DURING THIS PERIOD FROM A THREE-COMMISSIONER GOVERNMENT APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, TO

ITS PRESENTLY ELECTED MAYOR AND DISTRICT COUNCIL. THAT THIS IS TRUE GIVES ME REASONABLE ASSURANCE SUCH AN ADVISORY RELATIONSHIP COULD EFFECTIVELY CONTINUE WITH THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT IN SOME OTHER FORM OF ORGANIZATION SUCH AS A STATE. I BASE THIS ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH THE PRESENT DISTRICT GOVERNMENT, ITS MAYOR AND COUNCIL, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY ITS ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS. I BELIEVE THIS EXPANDED ROLE OF CITIZENS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL.

FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO LIMIT MY COMMENTARY TO THESE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND TO RESERVE FOR A LATER DATE A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SEND ME BUT WHICH ONLY REACHED OUR OFFICE YESTERDAY. I KNOW YOU ARE WORKING UNDER ESPECIALLY TRYING TIME CONSTRAINTS YOURSELVES, SO WE ASK THE RECORD BE LEFT OPEN FOR ONLY AN ADDITIONAL TEN DAYS. THE COMMISSION WILL BE MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 1982, AND I WILL BE HAPPY SOON AFTER TO FORWARD OUR OFFICIAL COMMENT INCLUDING COMMENT ON THOSE SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES WHICH I RECOGNIZE ARE OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO YOU.

IF I CAN ANSWER ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE AT THIS TIME, I WILL BE GLAD TO DO SO.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT B

May 13, 1982

Dear Mr. Berube:

The Commission was delighted to meet with David Dibner of GSA, and Jerry Karnes of the Harry Weese office, at its meeting on April 21, 1982, to review the master plan for completion of the Federal Triangle.

As you know, unfinished buildings and a massive amount of surface parking have marred the appearance of the Triangle from the beginning, a condition continually deplored by the Commission as a major embarrassment to the federal government. Regrettably the efforts to do something about it have never gotten beyond the planning stage, largely because these plans have so far depended on completing the original designs which called for development of the Great Plaza as a park, an expensive feature that has consistently failed to be funded.

The Commission has always been among those favoring completion of the Great Plaza as originally intended. However, with the recent development of Western Plaza and Pershing Park coupled with other nearby open spaces such as the Mall and Ellipse, we agree with the Harry Weese office that the need for another large park is now questionable. We also believe the proximity of the major Metro rail lines to the plaza site makes a convincing argument in favor of additional office development at this strategic location. Therefore, we are happy to approve this principal element of the new master plan for the Federal Triangle.

There are also other features of the plan that are highly commendable. Chief among these is the restoration of the numerous courtyards throughout the Triangle. Most have long been given over to parking or some other utilitarian use, so they no longer serve their original function, which was to provide a pleasant outlook from the surrounding offices. If they can be further enhanced by connecting then in some sort of circulation system making them accessible to the public, so much the better. They can, in fact, be considered a series of miniparks which taken together should offset the loss of the Great Plaza as open space. On balance, the overall distribution of open space in relation to buildings looks very reasonable in the present plan.

The Commission recognizes that this is a planning study and not an architectural design, yet it might be useful to at least identify those elements which concern us to some degree; in particular, the configuration of the building that would occupy the space immediately east of the District Building. The architect explained that its semi-circular plan was conceived as an attempt to create a sense of opening to the courtyards within, which is, in itself, a desirable goal. Unfortunately, such a form also has the effect of weakening the formal frame of buildings outlining the adjoining plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue. This frame is already fairly weak due to the diagonal opening of Pennsylvania Avenue and the landscaped Pershing Park to the west. Therefore, in our view, the line of buildings on the south side of the avenue should be strengthened by reinforcing it right up to the 13th Street right-of-way. We pointed out at our meeting that elsewhere in the Triangle the effect of drawing people into interior spaces is achieved by simple penetrations in solid walls, usually in the form of arcades. This is a very effective device and should be studied on this site.

We also hope that thorough study will be given to the entrance ramps of the underground parking facilities. Their location is critical and anything that can be done to minimize their appearance will obviously help the design. The ramp in the middle of 13th Street is particularly conspicuous and should receive special attention. In summary, I should say that our reaction to the overall plan is very positive. Any concern we might have with presently proposed features is relatively minor in comparison with the larger goals of correcting what for too long has been a series of major eyesores in the very heart of our federal establishment.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Bertrand G. Berube
Regional Administrator
General Services Administration
National Capital Region
Washington, DC 20407

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT C

May 12, 1982

Dear Mr. Myers:

The Commission is pleased to see plans moving ahead for the introduction of commercial uses at the Old Post Office; we feel the project as described by Charles Evans and his consultants at our April 21, 1982 meeting should help significantly the current efforts to enliven the Triangle area by providing a number of public amenities, such as shops and restaurants. The renovations described to accommodate these functions on the ground and first floor appear to fit well within the existing space, including the additions of a new mezzanine dining level on the south end and new stairs to provide better circulation and a better view of the atrium from the ground level entrance.

On the exterior, however, we are concerned that the proposed additions might go too far in altering the existing character of the Old Post Office. This is particularly true of the 11th Street pavilion which is too big and would surely conflict with plans for completion of the unfinished ends of the IRS Building, a project in which we are keenly interested. Our concern on the Pennsylvania Avenue side comes from the suggested alteration of the principal façade to accommodate two restaurants situated on raised terraces flanking both sides of the main entrance.

The Commission feels that the proposal for the south loading dock area is most appropriate. This addition would work within the original architecture of the building while developing the structural theme of the old canopy and enhancing the interest of this facade.

We look forward to following the progress of these plans. Our next meetings are on May 18 and July 13, 1982 and we will be happy to meet with you then or look at interim sketches at your convenience.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. John T. Myers
Assistant Regional Administrator
General Services Administration

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT D

May 11, 1982

Dear Mr. Regan:

The Commission of Fine Arts met with Mr. Yong-duk Chyun of your staff and Mr. Davis Buckley, the architect for a new office building in Square 458 on Indiana Avenue, N.W., on April 21, 1982. We reviewed and approved the concept for this infill building, happily much simplified from earlier versions presented to the PADC advisory group. Subject to review of design development and material selections, the project seems to be moving in the direction of providing a suitable complement to the existing structures and proposed plans for the area. As the project moves forward, we expect to review it through the final stages of working drawings and permit approval under the Shipstead-Luce Act and as requested by the PADC.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Tom Regan
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Suite 1148
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT E

May 11, 1982

Dear Mr. Levin:

The Commission of Fine Arts appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and see the designs for new landscaping for the Agriculture Department complex at its meeting on April 21, 1982. The designs are most appropriate and should result in a major improvement over the existing conditions. Our only regret is that the entire scheme has to be phased over a five year period. It would be much better if the street tree component of the project were completed all at one time, and I should stress, as soon as possible. Fourteenth Street is a major gateway to the city from the south, and new trees along this route would be a great help.

We also agree that the playground on the southwest corner of Independence and 14th Street next to the Auditors Building is another area that could stand improvement. This facility has gone unused for several years, has been untended and overgrown in the summer, and probably should not have been put there to begin with. Like the street trees, the cleaning up of this area should be given a high priority.

We look forward to the early completion of your efforts and appreciate the time your spent with the Commission in presenting these studies.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Richard Levin
United States Department
of Agriculture
Office of Operations
Washington, D.C. 20560

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT F

May 11, 1982

Dear Mr. Frere:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs at its meeting on 21 April 1982 for the half-dollar coin commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. While there were no objections to the rendering of Mount Vernon on the reverse, the members thought the equestrian portrait needed further study, especially in regard to the size of the horse's head in relation to the figure of Washington.

It was suggested that Ms. Jones prepare a clay maquette so that the final three-dimensional effect can be more easily judged. The Commission will be meeting again on 18 May and 13 July 1982; we will be happy to review the maquette on either of those dates.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Secretary

Francis B. Frere
Assistant Director of the
Mint for Marketing
Bureau of the Mint
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220